



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate Chamber  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

August 20, 2019

Governor Roy Cooper  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Cooper,

I write to respectfully ask, again, that you drop your Medicaid-or-nothing ultimatum so that we can negotiate a final budget.

You have told me that you would not sign a budget agreement – even if it included everything in your own proposal – unless it includes, or the legislature first passes, Medicaid expansion. So long as you maintain your blanket refusal to sign any budget, productive negotiations are impossible. After all, what is there to negotiate if your answer is already “no?”

There are teachers and state employees who are not getting raises, rape kits that are going untested, schools that are not being built, and a budget surplus that is sitting idle – all over a single policy disagreement.

I again renew my request to negotiate a final budget deal free from single-issue ultimatums. I am committed to returning to Raleigh for a special legislative session dedicated to what you claim is your top priority of health care access. We can have a full debate and, presumably, a vote on Democratic proposals. But everything in the budget should not be held hostage because we disagree on this one issue.

If you maintain your Medicaid-or-nothing ultimatum, the legislature will begin freeing some of the hostages you have taken. It will of course be up to you whether to veto priorities on which there is broad bipartisan agreement. It is our position that these items have been held up long enough.

I respectfully request the courtesy of a reply. It can be a phone call or face-to-face meeting if you'd prefer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Berger".

Phil Berger